

Lewis County Planning Commission

Public Hearing

Lewis County Courthouse
Commissioners' Hearing Room – 2nd Floor
351 NW North St – Chehalis, WA

October 14, 2014 - Meeting Notes

Planning Commissioners Present: Russ Prior, Bob Guenther, Mike Mahoney, Richard Tausch, Clint Brown

Planning Commissioners Excused: Arny Davis, Sue Rosbach

Staff Present: Lee Napier, Glenn Carter, Patrick Babineau, Mike Kroll, Tim Fife, Pat Anderson

Others Present: Please see sign in sheet

Handouts/Materials Used:

- Agenda
- Meeting Notes from September 23, 2014
- Countywide Planning Policies
- Public Works' Six Year Transportation Improvement Program

1. Call to Order

Chairman Mahoney called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m. The Commissioners introduced themselves.

2. Approval of Agenda

There were no changes to the agenda and so approved.

3. Approval of Meeting Notes

Commissioner Prior asked that on page 8 in the 4th paragraph the word "he" be changed to "Commissioner Prior." The meeting notes were approved with that correction.

4. Old Business

A. Public Hearing on Countywide Planning Policies (CWPP)

Chairman Mahoney opened the public hearing at 6:07 p.m.

Mr. Babineau stated each year the county reviews its Countywide Planning Policies which help frame the county's and its cities' comprehensive plans. Early in 2014 staff looked at the current CWPPs and met with the Planned Growth Committee (PGC) on April 9. Staff had no recommendations at that time for any changes or amendments to the existing policies. After the workshop the PGC also had no changes to the existing CWPPs. On September 23, 2014 the Planning Commission held a workshop, discussed the CWPPs and did not see a need to change the policies. Tonight the public hearing will allow comments or suggestions to amend the CWPPs.

Chairman Mahoney opened the public testimony portion of the hearing at 6:09 and asked if anyone wished to testify. There were no comments.

Chair Mahoney stated a Letter of Transmittal recommended that the Board of County Commissioners pass a resolution re-affirming the existing Lewis County Countywide Planning Policies with no amendments.

The Chair closed the public hearing at 6:10 p.m. He entertained a motion to forward the Letter of Transmittal to the BOCC. Commissioner Brown moved; Commissioner Guenther seconded and the motion carried.

5. New Business

B. Workshop on Public Works' Six Year Transportation Improvement Program

Mike Kroll, Transportation Planner with Lewis County Public Works, stated that every year Public Works has to develop a 6-year transportation plan. They bring the plan to the Planning Commission for any comments that the Commissioners might have.

Mr. Kroll stated that the purpose of the plan is to develop Lewis County's future transportation improvement programs and projects and provide a transportation plan for the ensuing six years. This is a requirement of Washington Administrative Code and it must be filed with the State Secretary of Transportation.

Mr. Kroll summarized how the projects are created and the project selection criteria. Each project is scored every three years. He explained the TIP evaluation process and stated there is a project feasibility which many times is based on the availability of funding. The TIP finalization is the presentation of the TIP to the community and decision makers; it is adjusted based on comments, responses and budgeting constraints. The proposal is then submitted to the Board of County Commissioners for a public hearing; the hearing this year will be on November 17.

Mr. Kroll highlighted the projects that are either completed or are under way for 2014 and summarized the priority projects that are on the TIP for 2015 to 2020.

Commissioner Prior stated that earlier in the year a proposed zoning change for a gravel pit came before the Planning Commission. During public comment it became apparent that the road was inadequate for truck traffic and a bridge across Foster Creek was inadequate. He asked what the county's responsibilities are regarding that and will we see any improvements on that road. He asked if it was private enterprise and if that was the gravel pit's problem.

Mr. Kroll and Mr. Fife had not heard about this issue. Mr. Kroll stated he would try to get an answer. Chairman Mahoney stated the bridge is not wide enough to accommodate semi trucks and another vehicle, and the issue was enforcement of speed laws and stop signs. He believed that information was passed along appropriately.

Ms. Napier stated that information was forwarded to Tim Elsea, Public Works Director, and Community Development is working with him with respect to the rezone request. It will be addressed in the rezone or environmental documents or other permitting documents.

Commissioner Guenther stated in the future there may be a large development on the Middle Fork Rd and he asked if Public Works is thinking about all of the roads that will be affected by that project: Rush Rd, Centralia Alpha Rd and North Fork Rd. 6700 new ~~homes~~ residents will really make an impact and it will be very expensive.

Mr. Kroll stated that is number 31 on the project list. That project has been carried for quite some time. When all that traffic is introduced the road goes to a different design standard. The developer will need to contribute to that because they are causing it to go to a different design standard.

Mr. Kroll reiterated that the TIP public hearing before the County Commissioners would be on November 17 at 10 a.m. in the Commissioners' hearing room.

6. Calendar

Chairman Mahoney asked Ms. Napier if she had anything else to bring before the Planning Commission. Ms. Napier stated only the calendar but she suggested jumping to the Good of the Order because of an announcement.

Chairman Mahoney asked who would be available on October 28. It appeared there would be a quorum. The topic will be marijuana land use.

Commissioner Guenther stated the minutes from the last meeting answered a question he had: can Lewis County make restrictions more stringent than the state law. He understands that that is an option for the Commission to entertain.

7. Good of the Order

Commissioner Brown stated he has served on the Planning Commission for the past three years and it has been a pleasure. He made a commitment when he started that if the time came when he felt he could not devote 100% that he would step down. That time has come and he has turned in his resignation to Commissioner Grose. He stated it has been an honor serving with everyone and hoped to see everyone in the future.

Chairman Mahoney stated there will be three vacancies on the Planning Commission at the end of 2014. The County Commissioners are looking for replacements.

8. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.